for ensuring implementation of the recommendation. As per the information available, Tripartite Committees for the purpose have already been set up in six States. States have also been requested to keep the Central Government informed about the Status of implementation. So far two States have sent their report in this regard. States have been reminded to expedite their reports.

*74 [*Transferred to the 20th March*, 1990]

**Discouragement of smoking in trains**

*75. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted the principle of gradual discouragement of smoking in trains ; if so, what steps are being taken in this direction ;

(b) whether Government propose to use the internal TV Circuits on the Railway Stations to project videos on the harmful efforts of smoking ; and

(c) whether Government also propose to impose a ban on the sale of cigarettes on the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The existing policy is that no person is permitted to smoke in a railway compartment without the consent of his fellow passengers in the same compartment. Besides, smoking has been prohibited in suburban trains, and in the airconditioned area of AC Sleeper and AC Chair Cars. In Second Class, earmarking of a sleeper coach for non-smokers is being experimented on some trains.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal.

**Revamping of the Public Distribution System**

*76. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to revamp the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enlarge the list of items for sale through the fair price shops; and

(d) if so, what are the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The administration of the public Distribution System is primarily the respeonsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. They also have powers under the Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations.

Efforts are made on a continual basis to strengthen and streamline the system. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time advising the regarding effective coordination among the agencies engaged in PDS, involvement of consumers' representatives in the vigil on its functioning, strict enforcement of the provisions of law, better coverage of population, introduction of mobile shops, etc. The Central Government also provides assistance to the concerned State Governments/ U.T. Administrations under selected schemes for remote and hilly areas.

(c) and (d) The States and Union Territories have been advised from time to time to include more items of mass consumption for sale through